



BENT RIM BUGLE

The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #75 - spring 06

2006 CPS info pg. 11

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GLOBE
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TESTED AND DESIGNED BY THE KONA LES GETS WORLD CUP RACE TEAM

FIG 1:
KONA HYDRATION
PACK





The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) is a 501-(C)(3) non-profit organization. We have 1,600 members in nine chapters throughout Michigan. The mission of the MMBA is to promote responsible mountain biking and to work toward the goals of common land access and natural resource protection through interaction with policy makers, the cycling industry, race promoters, mountain bikers and other trail users.

The Bent Rim Bugle is published four times a year (March, June, Sept, Dec.) by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and distributed to all members. It is made possible by volunteers and riders like you.

Bent Rim Bugle

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Visit the MMBA on the web at:
www.mmba.org

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New BRB Logo/Masthead by
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Cover photo by Bryan Mitchell

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Fresh Dirt



Thank you one and all for attending or volunteering at the annual meeting. Every year it gets bigger and better. It seems like we've almost outgrown our space! If you didn't get a chance to go, try to make it next year. We take care of the important organizational business of electing at-large board members, and it's a nice mid-winter reminder of our sport of choice.

Growing is the topic this time of year. Spring is almost here bringing the spring thaw and growth to our favorite trails. It is also heralding growth in the MMBA. The past year was spent in practically invisible work of putting foundations in place and getting more people involved in the processes of the MMBA. This year we're moving on and planning for growth.

To that end, a group of the State Board met for a strategic planning meeting to help chart the course of our organization for the future. It was a growth experience because even though people came to the table with very different viewpoints on certain issues, we found even those with widely differing approaches were concerned about the same issues in the organization. As a group we established expectations, revealed issues, and developed and prioritized strategies and indices for moving the organization forward. The main issues of importance included advocacy, communication, infrastructure, and membership. Key issues to resolve include: increasing membership, improving internal and external communication, and sharing the workload.

So, if you see an opportunity at the local, chapter, or state level that you would like to help with, don't be shy! You'll see many opportunities for involvement this year either as a volunteer or participant. Your help and involvement is far more welcome than you know.

Even though it seems like we're at a sticking point, I heard an interesting discussion recently: The MMBA has grown up. It is no longer the new kid on the block. We are recognized as established user group, respected as responsible land stewards, and the organization as a whole is respected for taking the lead in trail advocacy in Michigan. We can be proud of that growth because we've made it happen together. This doesn't mean that we can be complacent. No. But we can move forward with the confidence inspired by experience.

See you on the trail,
Mary Ann Martin

MMBA NEWS

From the desk of Executive Director - Todd Scott

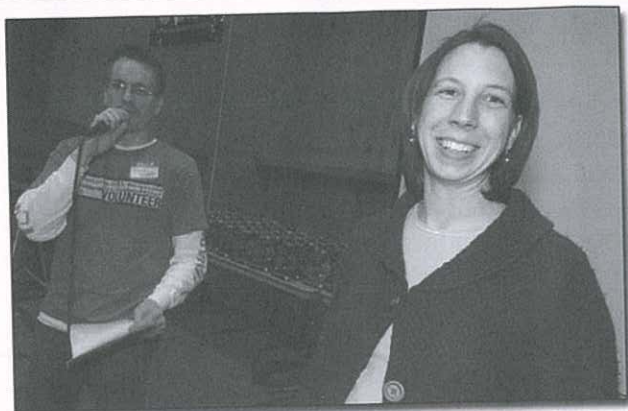


Photo by Bryan Mitchell | www.mountainbikephotographer.com

Sarah Manning receives her VOY award from Todd Scott at the MMBA annual meeting and expo.

Congrats to Sarah Manning

Sarah is the 2005 MMBA State Volunteer of the Year based on all her hard work and dedication with the Mountain Kids program and much more. She's not only a great role model for volunteers, but for women's racing, too. "Thank you so much for the wonderful honor," said Sarah. "Mountain biking and the MMBA has given me so much. Volunteering is a great way to give something back to the community." Thank you, Sarah.

Helmets off to Joe and Shari

Thanks to Joe Solecki for coming on board as our new MMBA treasurer. He's quickly immersed himself in the MMBA books. His work will give us a better understanding of our financing and how to grow our organization. And we also send a big thanks to Shari Scurr for handling all the treasury work during the past year.

Annual Expo & Swap

Thanks to everyone who made the Expo bigger and better than ever. We estimated over 1,000 people attended. Thanks to our guest speakers Jef Mallett (Frazz) and Chris Eatough (Trek Bicycles) for drawing them in. We had 31 exhibitors and 39 swap tables – a full house. Armadillo Printwear in Berkley provided our First Across the Finish Line awards this year. They cut us a huge deal by covering half of the \$2,200 wholesale cost. This is on top of the fact that they've been a long time major supporter of the MMBA. They're on the web at www.goarmadillo.com

We also want to thank Paint Creek Bicycles in Lake Orion for once again supplying a super Volunteer of the Year award. This year Sarah Manning was presented with a super nice Cannondale riding jacket. Their web site is www.paintcreekbicycles.com

MMBA Legislator of the Year

When the time came to choose an MMBA Legislator of the Year, Senator Patricia Birkholz was our clear choice. We're very grateful for her dedication to protecting Michigan's natural resources and recreation, from chairing the Senate's Natural Resources committee to helping create the Citizen's Committee for Michigan State Parks, from her recent legislation to force open reviews of DNR park land sales to regularly attending our legislative trail days in Lansing. Senator Birkholz represents the 24th District (Allegan, Barry and Eaton Counties).

Timber!

Our legislators in Lansing have been very busy lately introducing legislation that directly affects mountain biking in Michigan – some of it positively and some of it negatively. A slew of forest bills have been pushed through the State House and are on their way to the Senate, where we hope to stop or at least fix them.

There are two in particular that we oppose.

Representative Tom Casperson introduced **House Bill 5453** that mandates the DNR to put up timber sale all forestlands that would maximize "forest economics" and forest growth unless prohibited by state or federal law. This means the timber industry would decide where cutting will occur without regard to other issues such recreational interests. We understand the economic importance of logging our state forests, but we ask that it's done in a responsible manner than doesn't significantly harm our recreational activities. You may be tired of reading about DNR financial woes. Usually it's the parks division, but the DNR forest division (DNR FMFM) doesn't have a funding source for recreation. It used to be financed by campers. That's why the DNR FMFM is resisting any proposals for new state pathways.

Anyway, Representative Casperson also introduced **House Bill 5628** that takes some DNR FMFM logging revenue and dumps it in the school aid fund and local governments. Currently that money goes towards forest management, which covers fire fighting, reforestation, and recreation. According to Lynne Boyd, the DNR FMFM chief said this bill would pull \$4.4 million out of the DNR if signed into law.

Fortunately the Sierra Club has really taken the lead on these forest issues, so we've been working closely with them. Some mountain bikers might find that hard to believe after reading about some Sierra Club anti-mountain bike crusades out West. That's just not the relationship we have in Michigan. Perhaps it's due to our lack of conflicts over Federal Wilderness designations. Or, perhaps

it's just our Midwest sensibility that tells us to work together on these issues because we're basically on the same side.

100% Certified

The DNR recently got dual certification for our state forests, which among other things requires the DNR to balance forest management and recreation. This is great news because state forests make up 59% of the outdoor recreation land in Michigan. According to a press release from Governor Granholm, "Dual certification affirms that our state-owned forests are managed in a healthy, sustainable way. It strengthens Michigan's economy, maintains our competitiveness in global timber markets and gives consumers confidence that they are buying and using products from well managed forests." Many wood product buyers will only purchase certified wood, which fetches a higher price.

Opposing Darwin

Representative Darwin Booher has introduced **House Bill 5814** that could severely handcuff future DNR land purchases. It allows local communities and counties to stop any DNR land purchases by simply passing a resolution. For example, when the DNR buys new park land at Pontiac Lake to replace the land lost to the Williams Lake Road alignment, they would have to tell White Lake Township and Oakland County about it ahead of time. If either opposes the purchase, the DNR could not buy the land.

Protecting State Parks

On the flip side, the MMBA is supporting two bills recently introduced that make it more difficult for the DNR to sell state park land without oversight. Senate Bill 971 requires any DNR-initiated land sales be approved by a super majority on the Citizen's Committee for Michigan. Senate Bill 972 prevents the DNR from labeling state park land as surplus (presumably to sell it.) Neither bill limits the legislation from initiating DNR park lands sales, so we'll still need to remain vigilant. These Senate bills are in reaction to a recent Mackinaw Center for Public Policy article that proposes Michigan sell 14 state parks to private landowners to downsize and generate cash.

Bush Budget Cuts

President Bush has proposed a 2007 budget that cuts \$500,000 from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. What does this cut mean to Michigan? I don't think anyone knows yet. Our NPS Rivers and Trails person is Barbara Nelson-Jameson out of Sleeping Bear. She's been a huge help on the statewide trails planning project (mostly rail-trails) and Rouge trail projects. We're working to bring her in for some consulting on our Rouge Park Trails as well.

DNR Park Passes

Unlike most DNR fees, DNR Park motor vehicle passes (MVPs) are set by our state legislators. The current legislation ends January 1st, 2007, after which DNR Parks can't charge entry fees. These entry fees generate one third of

their budget. We're supporting new legislation that allows the DNR Director to set the fees. Why change it? When fees are in state law, the rules are generally inflexible. For instance when Oakland County Parks and the Metroparks wanted to include the DNR in their combined park entry pass, the DNR had to decline. It wasn't allowed unless state law was changed.

There's also a growing concern about making our parks more accessible to those who can least afford their entry. And, the law doesn't allow the DNR to recognize out-standing park volunteers with free entry passes.

IMBA Trail Care Crew

Dan Harrison has been working with IMBA to bring them to the Traverse City area sometime in April. The visit coincides with our recent work with the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and their Arcadia property. Watch the MMBA web site for details.

Sleeping Bear Plan Awakened

The National Park Service has restarted the park planning process for the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. The prior planning process was halted due to conflicts over Wilderness designations that had nothing to do with mountain biking. That was unfortunate because we had some mountain bike/multi-use trail included in the preferred plan. Now we're starting over.

Our own Dan Harrison has crafted and submitted the MMBA comments for the new park plan.

Rouge Park

Congratulations to the Friends of Rouge Park. REI has selected Rouge Park for a \$10,000 stewardship grant to be administered through Friends group. It is part of REI's effort to support stewardship of local parks by dedicating \$1 million to 100 parks across the country.

The grant is limited to "maintaining, preserving and caring for these wonderful outdoor resources that provide all types of muscle-powered recreation options for everyone to enjoy and experience."

Red Wings

This came in from Roger Louton, a Red Wings fan living in Oregon: "The other day the Red Wings announcer said that Chris Chelios, defenseman for the Red Wings, credits his longevity to a new workout routine in the off season: Mountain Biking! He says it helps his stamina and balance. He has four Stanley Cup rings and is still playing at age 44." I put together a packet of MMBA information and invited Chris to join us on some rides.



HAVE WHISTLE, WILL TRAVEL.

By Joe Foy—AKA Hockeydaddy

As I started to make my right turn back to the single-track I realized I was starting to slide, and I was quickly losing control of the bike. I was going down and my foot didn't come unclipped. The pedal dug into the ice, the bike turned and my ankle went with it. A shot of lightning fast pain from my ankle made me scream out loud. When the bike and I came to a halt I looked down and to my shock my right foot was now pointing in the 4 o'clock position. I knew all was not going well. The pain was increasing and I was starting to go into shock. I got the bike off of me and tried to get up and noticed that I was on a big sheet of ice. I tried to use my bike as leverage, but it was too slippery and the ankle was just too painful. So I just lay on the ice and started to access the situation: sun going down and temp dropping fast. I knew the situation called for me to do something quick. I pulled out the cell phone and called 911. But how would they find me? Could I explain to the dispatcher where I was in the trail system of the park? I took a deep breath and laid back and thought it all started out as just your normal midwinter MTB ride. It was late afternoon, and I just got off work and wanted to ride. I had been under the weather all week and was just dying to ride. When I pulled up and parked on the dirt road adjacent to Lakeshore Park (Novi Tree Farm) in Novi I could feel the week's weight starting to peel off my shoulders. In just a few minutes I will be doing one of the things I get so much enjoyment from....MTBing. I geared upped and did a final check of all my gear and bike and headed down the single-track. The dispatcher's voice brought me back to the moment.

911: What's your emergency?

Me: (Excitedly) I'm a MTBer and have had a bad crash where I think I broke my ankle and I can't walk. I'm at Lakeshore Park in Novi. God, help me!!!!

911: Where are you sir??

Me: Lakeshore Park in Novi?? Please help I'm in so much *%*& pain!!!

911: Please relax sir. What is the address???

Me: ADDRESS??? ADDRESS??? IT'S A PARK IN NOVI!!!!!!!

911: I really need you to relax sir. First off what's your name?

Me: Joe...OH MY *&^%ing ANKLE

911: Can you give me major cross streets?

Me: North of 96 and west of Novi rd....God please hurry I'm starting to get really cold!!!!!!

911: I have a unit on route Joe. Just relax help is on the way. Joe do you know where you are in the park???

Me: I'm about 2 miles in the park on the 2 track. God, please hurry. The pain is so bad.

911: Joe, relax and stay on the line with me until someone reaches you, OK?

Me: Ok But please hurry it's getting really cold and I

can't stop shaking.

BEEP, BEEP. (sound of LOW BATTERY)

Me: My battery is draining because of the cold and I'm afraid we're going to get disconnected.

911: Stay with me Joe and help is almost there.

Me: (Sound of distant sirens) I HEAR SIRENS FAR OFF. THEY ARE NEAR HERE.

911: Joe, you said you hear sirens??? (I hear her tell the unit that I hear them) Joe, they say they are at the front of the park but the gate is locked. But they will be there soon.

Me: I have a whistle on me and I'll keep blowing it so they can find me.

911: Joe, did you say you had a whistle and you'll blow it till they find you???

Me: Yes. I'm worried that the phones not going to last much longer. BEEP, BEEP.

911: Joe The unit is tr..... (phone goes dead)

By this time I was starting to become really cold due to the fact I had been lying there for about 15 minutes and the temp was quickly dropping to the low 20's and my sweat drenched gear was starting to take it's effect. With trembling hands I dug the whistle out of the extra cell phone carrier I use for it and my keys and I start pushing air through it like my life depended on it. I did this for a few minutes and then I tried to redial 911. I punched 911 back in and to my surprise there she was again....my angel's voice.

911: 991 What's your emergency???

Me: I'm a MTBer that broke his ankle in....

911: Joe???

Me: Yes it's me. My phone keeps cutting out and I'm blowing my whistle!!!!!! Please hurry I'm freezing!!!!!!

911: (She talks to the units letting them know she has me back on the line) Joe they are in the park, just keep blowing the whistle ok?

Me: Ok.

I start blowing and blowing and you could actually hear the urgency in the tone that was coming out of the whistle. All this time I was blowing I'm sure the dispatcher had removed her earpiece to avoid from going deaf.

911: Joe, do you hear anyone calling your name???

I listened but couldn't hear anything but the wind making the limbs on the trees swayed and crack.

Me: No but I'm going to keep blowing. Tell them to hurry I'm really getting cold and my clothes are starting to freeze to the ice.

Then finally after what seemed like an eternity I heard a distance voice yelling "JOE, I HEAR YOU. DON'T STOP BLOWING!!!!!!" "!!!!!!" I stopped long enough to tell the dispatcher I had made verbal contact with one of my rescuers and went back to whistling. As I excitedly pushed air through that cold metal I constantly scanned the woods for the voice that was getting closer and closer by the second. Then in the distance I could see my rescuer in blue running and pushing the brush out of his way to get to the sound of the whistle till we were right next to each other. He took the phone from my hand and told the dispatcher he was there now. He handed the phone back to me.

Continued on page 7

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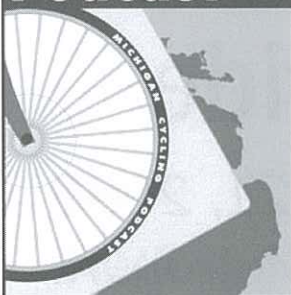
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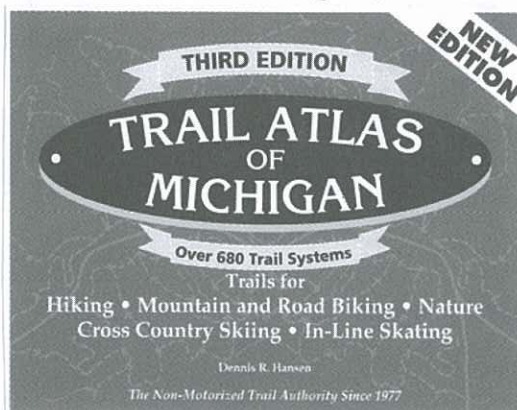
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Continued from page 5

Me: They're here now. Thank you so much!!!!!! Thank you so much!!!!!! GOD THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!

911: You're welcome Joe. You're in good hands now. Good luck!!!

And she was gone.....

"How you doing?" he asked. I explained I was in a lot of pain and freezing. He explained they would have me out of there as soon as they could. I was just so relieved to know that I wasn't alone any more. But then again I don't think I was ever alone.

"MY BIKE????? What are we going to do with my bike???" I asked excitedly. Typical MTBer, all broken up but still worrying about his bike!!!! He responded: "We'll make sure it's taken care of Joe Let's worry about you and getting you out of here."

Now came the task of getting the medical unit to me or me to it. There was a lot of communication between him and his colleagues and he was trying to explain to them how to get there. After a short time they could not find us and they had ended up back at the front of the park. He then asked me how he could get to the front of the park to show them how to get back there. I explained to him the easiest way and he asked if I was going to be ok if he left to go find them and I agreed to anything that would get me some place warm. What seemed like an hour but I'm sure it was just about 10 minutes I saw a group of blue coming in my direction along with dogs. When they reached me they now had to get the EMS unit to me but

they knew and I knew that wasn't going to happen. So they decide to bring the Fire Chiefs Yukon down the 2track as far as they could and then carry me the rest. So that's what they did and within a short time I was sprawled out in the back seat of the Yukon feeling the sweetest car heat I had ever felt in my life. The next words out of my mouth were..."WHAT ABOUT MY BIKE????!!!"

I heard a voice say "I'll take care of it Joe" I looked around at the faces and saw a familiar one of a good friend Hans that I had ridden with before who was there because he does media work for Novi Fire & Rescue. Now the trip to the front of the park was bumpy and painful but I was safe and in good hands. They then transferred me to the EMS unit and my gear came to the cold reality of the EMS Tech's cutting to get to the injury. They decided to give me morphine and transport. I now have a plate and 6 screws in my ankle, but I'm on the mend and everyday gets me closer and closer to full recovery. Hopefully will be riding again by May.

I'm ever so grateful for my rescuers and can't say enough good things about the Novi Fire & Rescue. Because of them and my preparedness for an emergency it could have been a lot worse, a whole lot worse. So please be prepared for any emergency that might face you on the trail it could mean your life.

Get out and Ride!



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High Country Pathway

Summer Solstice Ride June 10, 2006

An 80-mile mountain bike adventure!



Presented by NiteRider and Rocky Mountain Bicycles.

Trail Info: The HCP is an incredible 80-mile adventure through the beautiful Pigeon River Country State Forest. The HCP passes through a variety of woodlands and wetlands containing massive groves of silver beech, tamarack swamp and leather leaf bogs, a handful of hilltop views, and streams, rivers, and lakes too numerous to mention by name. This area is home to beaver, black bear, bobcat, pine martin, snowshoe hare, wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, bald eagle, deer, wild turkey and the largest elk herd east of the Mississippi River. This is some of the best and most scenic mountain bike riding you will find in Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Ride Description: We are trying to accommodate different abilities by offering three choices: 80 miles, 45 miles and 11 miles. On the 80-mile ride you will ride the entire trail in one day, approximately 14 hours (11 hours in saddle). The shorter 45-mile ride covers what many consider to be the best part of the trail. Warning to riders not fit enough to complete the ride. These rides are very strenuous! For those who aren't as ambitious but still want to enjoy the Pigeon River Forest, we recommend the Shingle Mill Pathway, which forms part of the HCP but has choices with loops of 1 mile / 2 miles / 6 miles / 10 miles / and 11 miles. (This is a good choice for family members).

Camping: We will be in the group campground at Clear Lake State Park. There's a large central fire pit with benches, hand pump, and pit toilets. It is just a short walk to the hot showers, real toilets, sandy beach, trails, etc. It is a value with a cost of just \$2 per person/per day. If you are planning to bring a camper, reservations are recommended at the regular campground.

Driving Directions: Clear Lake State Park is located 9½ miles north of Atlanta on M-33.

For more information contact Dan @ (231) 779-1461 or send an email to: northern@mmba.org

For up-to-date information visit us on the web: <http://www.mmba.org/northern>

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Great Trails Equals Great Riding

By Lori Hauswirth, Co-Director Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival

Each spring in the Keweenaw Peninsula, a dedicated group of volunteers descends on the Maasto Hiihto, Churning Rapids, MTU and Copper Harbor Trails putting in hundreds and hundreds of hours brushing, building bridges, cutting fallen trees and removing branches from miles of mountain bike trails. Along with the maintenance, new trails are often added to bridge gaps in the system as a result of changing owners, logging, enlarged gravel pits or other land use patterns. The yearly improvements not only provide routes for the annual Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival and Copper Harbor Fat Tire races but also prep the trails for thousands of local and visiting riders that descend on the Keweenaw throughout the season.

The Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival and Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival have a goal, put on high quality events that raise funds for the trails with a great return on investment for the participants. For the Chain Drive Festival, not only do early registrants for the distance events receive a jersey with registration, unique awards are presented to category winners, all participants are fed at the completion of the race and all funds raised go towards trail improvement and acquisition projects in the Keweenaw. Not bad for a \$45 early entry fee. At the Copper Harbor Fat Tire, races are followed by a cookout with live bluegrass music. Local riders in the Keweenaw enjoy seeing visitors on the trails and are willing to let them in on the best riding in the area. More often than not, the best riding is a result of the early volunteer time spent prepping miles of singletrack trails using tools and materials funded by the previous year's race events. When you race in the Keweenaw, you can feel good knowing that your entry fees are building better trails. Next time you are considering signing up for a



Photo by Lori Hauswirth

Mike Young of Hancock, an active Keweenaw trail volunteer, gets some racing time in at the Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival.

race; find out if you will be getting better trails as a result of your registration fee.

For more information on the Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival, June 17th and 18th, go to www.chaindrive.org. Featured events include 16 & 32 mile point to point distance races and Junior Chain Drive on Saturday while new Gravity events (Downhill and Technical Dual Slalom) on Sunday add to the weekend of fun. Check out www.keweenawadventure.com for information on the Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival with 12 & 20 mile events scheduled for September 3rd.

A BIG Thank You!

Dear Dan Harrison,

I just wanted to say "Thanks" to you and the dozen or so members of the MMBA that helped the volunteers at the Back Alley Bikes with our Holiday Bikes program. With your help, we were able to rebuild or repair about one hundred children's bikes. During the next couple days we gave the bikes away to the children in the Cass corridor neighborhood that surrounds the shop's location.

It is difficult to share our love of cycling with a child who doesn't even have a bike. However, with your help there are now a hundred happy youngsters in Detroit that can! We currently have some repairing our furnace. So very shortly, we should have heat in the shop. Our volunteers are working on improving the shop's insulation so we can keep the shop open all winter long.

We are going to continue with our Monday "Mechanic's Night" from 5 to 9 PM and our Tuesday "Open Bike Repair Night" from 4 to 8 PM. If you, or anyone that you know would like to come down and volunteer to help a young person or an adult repair a bike, please, feel free to join Thanks from Back Alley Bikes in Detroit's Cass Corridor, Pat & Mary Margaret Flinn



2006 MMBA Board & Officers:

(Left to right): Mike Needham, Joe Solecki (Treasurer), Mary Ann Martin, Dan Harrison, El Huntington, Jeff Adamcik, Bill Mayer, Mike Flack, Pat Audet, Cris Cataldo, Jody Delavern, Jamie Green, Dennis Murphy. Not pictured: Jake Pangle.





2005 Collegiate Division II
Short Track MTB Champion
Brent Bookwalter.
Photo : Kevin Holldbar

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MMBA "06"
C.P.S.
Championship Point Series



2006 MMBA Championship Point Series Schedule

In the spirit of bringing Michigan's premier grassroots racing series back to its advocacy roots - we are pleased to announce the 2006 MMBA Championship Points Series schedule:

Sunday, April 23rd
Yankee Springs Trail Benefit – TT



Sunday, May 7th
Fort Custer Stampede Trail Benefit –XC



Sunday, June 4th
Hanson Hills Challenge – XC

Saturday, July 8th
Boyne Challenge – Marathon XC

Saturday, August 26th
Maybury Trail Benefit – XC



Sunday, September 24th
Addison Oaks Fall Classic – XC

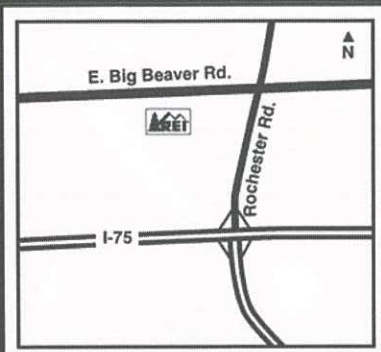


We're making improvements in 2006! We've introduced a new venue, Saturday races, improved race day logistics and endurance based XC races. More details to follow soon – so stay tuned!

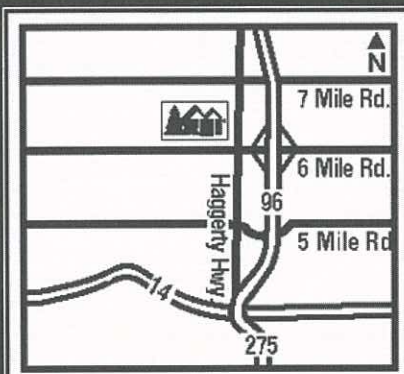
Our goal is to bring the value of the MMBA CPS – back to the racers, their families and back to the trail. To this end the 2006 race schedule will help increase fundraising for trail advocacy. Money generated by the Trail Benefits will directly fund ongoing MMBA advocacy work and trail improvements.

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Chapter Chatter

Holly/Flint Chapter News

The Holly/Flint Chapter would like to send out a huge thanks to Revolution Cycling Club for their generous donation again this year! We really appreciate the continued support for the trails in the area.

We would also like to thank all volunteers who came out to help setup and cleanup for the annual meeting this year, with special thanks to chapter members Tony Klein, Pam Klein, Dave Lidgey, Jim Owens, and Krug Neilson for showing up early to setup for the setup.

We several chapter events this year: Saturday May 20th we will have a 100 level trail class at Holdridge; Saturday June 3, National Trails day we will have a Chapter meeting at the Holdridge trail head 10am, Group ride 10:30am, cookout 12pm. Saturday June 10th we will have a poker run, open to the public in coordination with the Go Outdoors initiative; Saturday September 16th we will have a trail day and chapter meeting combined, and November 8th is the end of year chapter meeting. We will also have a 100 level trail class at Ruby Campground, date TBD.

Holdridge trail days start at 9am: Saturday March 25, Chainsaws and Chili; Saturday, April 29; Saturday, May 20; Saturday June 24, Saturday, July 29; Saturday, August 26; Saturday September 16. Contact Jeff Colombo 248.807.1868 for confirmation or details of the trail dates.

Ruby trail days: These dates and times may change due to weather; please contact Mike Liagre @ 586.864.2578 for complete details. We start at 9am and work until 1pm.

Then we ride and check out our great work! Refreshments and lunch will be available at each Ruby trail build day this season! Ruby trail days are: Saturday, May 6, [Saturday, May 27 is an optional day, please contact Mike for confirmation], Saturday June 17, Saturday July 8, Saturday July 15 [this is a race prep trail day for the NORBA race the next day], and Saturday September 2.

See you on the trail!

Mary Ann

Northern Chapter News

Here it is the last day in February and just outside my window there is a little over two feet of snow on the ground. I find it hard to believe that in about a month all of the snow will be gone and it will be time to get out the bike. We are currently making plans for the summer just ahead of us.

But first let us look at a few things that have already gone by, with the first one being chapter volunteers.

This year five Northern Chapter members, Eric Isaacsen, Kevin Rose, Dan & Kaori O'Neill and Jamie Green, earned FAFL awards. FAFL awards are given to volunteers who work ten or more hours maintaining the trails we love to ride. Next time you see them be sure to thank them for all of their hard work.

On February 18th we held our first annual snowshoe trip at Green Timbers, which is located on the western side of the Pigeon River Country State Forest. After a week

where we received a whole lot of snow, 19 inches total, those who dared were greeted to clear skies and a very cold temperature of 5 degrees. We did an 8-mile trek from the parking lot on Sturgeon Valley Rd. all the way to the Honeymoon Cabin, which is situated on a very scenic ridge overlooking the Sturgeon River. Everyone who attended had a good time. Plans are currently underway for this years' Michigan Bike Festival, which takes place September 15 – 17. New this year will be an exciting 6 and 12-hour endurance race. Look for more details at: www.michiganbikefestival.com.

Coming Events: June 3rd is National Trails Day. This year we will be working on the High Country Pathway. For the most part we will be removing deadfall from the trail. This trail is 80-mile long and we can use all of the help we can get. As always, those who help out will be well fed before they leave. Free camping will be available at the Pigeon River Campground for those who wish to make a weekend of it. If you are interested in helping out, please send me an email at: northern@mmba.org. The following weekend, June 10th, we will be holding our third annual High Country Pathway Summer Solstice Ride. This year there will be two distances available, 80 and 45 miles. Once again we will be staying in the group campground at Clear Lake State Park in Atlanta. You can find out more at: www.mmba.org/northern/summer-solstice-ride.html.

Jamie Green—Northern Chapter President

www.mmba.org/northern

New Trail in the Keweenaw Area

During the past two years a group has been developing single-track mountain bike trails within the confines of the Swedetown Ski trail system near Calumet in the U.P.

This last season about 8 miles of new trail was added to the tune of about \$600 and over 500 man-hours of work -- and IMBA would be proud of the way we built them.

This trail system has some challenging spots but has mostly been designed for your beginning single-track rider. It has great flow, but still gives you a good workout with the short climbs and descents. The Keweenaw now offers mountain biking for all levels: Swedetown for beginners; MTU or Churning Rapids for intermediates; and Copper Harbor for those who want BC-style riding in the Midwest. We are planning a race for August 19th to raise funds for signage and a few more bridges. The bridges will allow us to complete a couple new loops.

Marc Norton

Pontiac Lake Chapter News

Once again I have been elected President of Pontiac Lake Chapter. I want to take this opportunity to personally invite all PLRA members and prospective members to attend chapter meetings and participate in chapter activities. Things have been a little slow here and it's time to get them moving again. I will be attending a DNR Planning meeting on March 29th and will schedule a chapter meeting afterward to address any issues that concern us. Please check your email for the meeting invitation. If

you don't have an email and would like to be notified of the meeting, please contact me. I will be happy to call you or snail mail the information to you.

So far, we have scheduled 4 trail days: Two Saturdays are planned to perform needed repairs, prune obtrusive branches, clear messy debris and trim annoying weeds. Two Wednesday evenings are planned for trimming annoying weeds. The trail tends to get a little overgrown in the summer and we would like to take care of the growth so that we can ride unhindered by face slappers and handlebar grabbers. Please join us. If there is time and we are not too tired we will have a group ride afterward. Or we can go to the Clarkston Union for a bite to eat before heading home.

Trail work schedule:

- Saturday, April 9 Work Day 9 am-done
- Wednesday, May 24 Evening Work Day 6 pm-done
- Saturday, June 17 Work Day 9 am-done
- Wednesday, July 19 Evening Work Day 6 pm-done

Obviously, the more people we have, the less time it will take to get the work done. Then we can ride! I don't expect the work to be too taxing but the more the merrier for the riding part.

We need a CPS Rep. If you or someone you know is interested; please contact me and I can give you information about the desired requirements and responsibilities.

I really would like to see new fresh faces at meetings. They don't take long and we really do need the help. I hope to see you all this summer. Thanks so much.

*Jody DeLavern - President, PLRA Chapter
pontiaclake@mmba.org*

Poto Chapter News

Although the long Michigan winters are difficult for cyclists, they are a great time to get caught up on advocacy work. We have been busy here at the Poto Chapter working on new projects. Ann Arbor is currently slated to open a dirt jump/freeride park in the summer of '06 in Bandemere Park along the Huron River. We should hopefully see some progress on the Greenway project that follows Platt Road South to Rolling Hills Park. We got some bad news on the Washtenaw County Border to Border Pathway. It seems that a permit was denied for a key bridge and it has left the designers stumped. Hopefully my next update will announce the solution.

We have started to collaborate with the Washtenaw County Parks Department for the first time this winter. Until now, no park under their ownership has ever allowed mountain biking. Due to popular request and a solid track record by the MMBA, we should see four parks with new trail systems in the near future. That is what I call progress!

We have a new Trail Coordinator at Brighton Recreation Area. Patrick Olson is replacing Matt Pruski and is brining excitement and energy to his new post. We should see some great things happening there as the DNR Staff at Brighton is proving to be excellent to work with. If you see

a guy in a DNR garb out doing trailwork, that is probably Justin. Stop and introduce yourself, he is a great asset to the Park.

I am really looking forward to riding the re-route put in at the Poto at the end of 2005. There is nothing worse than creating an awesome new section of trail and then having it snow and be unrideable (for me anyway). Make sure to attend our chapter meetings to help us in our planning for the Poto in 2006.

We have been behind the times with our web-presence for some time now. But no more! Look for a new Poto Chapter website soon that will give you all the key info without muscling in on the main MMBA site. Thanks to Scott Mulder of Tree Fort Bikes, we should have a slick new logo as well.

In case you didn't make the January Chapter Meeting, we have a special new program to thank our trail work volunteers for their efforts. Look for the new chapter website to learn more. Now if we can only survive the temptation of the spring thaw, we should have a great 2006!

*Bill Mayer - Vice President - MMBA www.mmba.org |
President - MMBA Potawatomi Chapter*

Southwest Chapter News

The Southwest Chapter held our annual winter festival in co-ordination with the free fishing weekend on Saturday February 18. Snowfest 2006. Until the week of, we had seen little promise of a return to winter. The week preceding had freezing temperatures overnight, enough to re-freeze local lakes with a thin skim of ice. The forecast for the weekend called for single digit lows. I was hopeful and thought we might be able to use Whitford Lake for recreation come Saturday. Ma nature had other ideas on Friday however. How 'bout warm temps, driving winds, and heavy rain in a thunderstorm.

On Saturday the 2 1/2 inches of ice was reduced to 1 1/4 and half the lake was open water. Daryl and I demonstrated the danger to all by walking out a short distance and breaking through. As people began to show up the temp was steady a 7 degrees with a twenty mph wind. Someone suggested we start the fire, right away! Daryl said "Nah, we need to put up tarps for a wind break first". Daryl almost became Augusta's first astronaut when he picked up the edge of a 16 foot tarp in a gust of wind. There! Its done. We have shelter. "Can we start the fricken fire now!!!" Daryl built the log cabin style stack with plenty of newspaper inside and a little charcoal starter on top. I won't say it was large, but if it had been a real log cabin, a St. Bernard would have fit inside. With the flick of a Bic it was on fire. The swirling winds inside our shelter fanned the flame and carried blackened remnants of newspaper all over the clean picnic tables and onto the food. Not to worry. By the time we would eat, our taste buds would be under the influence of soot and kerosene anyway. Daryl crossed off all the fun activities from our list that required snow or ice and began setting up the bean bag launcher. The other Daryl borrowed coals from the camp-

fire and started the charcoal for lunch. Out of the 5000 people invited about 20 showed up. Did I mention, "IT WAS COLD!" The day was clear and sunny and a few hearty souls ventured away from the fire long enough to appreciate its warmth. The unanimous consensus was, "Let's eat!"

Maybe you've eaten in deer camp when the food refused to stay warm. Eating hot food at 7 degrees is a surprise. The chili in your Styrofoam bowl is steaming profusely but by the time your spoon reaches mouth, the food is barely warm. After lunch a few braved the cold wind and walked around the lakes on the Blue Loop. They stopped at the silo for the initiation of Nickie into the forever 13 club. On their return the grass skirts and coconuts were donned and the much anticipated dancing girls performed to island music. Although it was a day too extreme for full enjoyment of outdoor sport, it turned out to be a perfect day to renew friendships and become children again around a warming campfire. I'm sure that this year's smiling participants will forget how cold it was by the time next year's invitation goes out.

Lecture time.

Warming weather will make Willie and Wanda wan'na wride. That's okay! Tell them for me to stay off the trails when they are muddy. Sometimes freezing overnight temps harden muddy trails enough to allow morning rides before the thaw. The muddy ruts and hoof prints left by some unconcerned trail users are seen as abuse and irresponsibility. Please, Don't leave your mark on any trail.

Championship Point Series.

Cross country mountain bike racing in Michigan is making a return. The MMBA is taking a greater share in staging these races in 2006. There are other races held in Michigan but none will do more for trails and advocacy than the MMBA CPS. No race series has tougher competition than our own MMBA CPS. No race series anywhere has a better awards convention or better awards. Competition will be at its best with six different challenging venues, five counting toward the championship. No month has two races within itself. Carpooling and teams are encouraged. 2006 is the year you should return to mountain bike racing. 2006 is the year you should start mountain bike racing. The season begins April 23.

Western Chapter News

The Western Chapter has a trail maintenance scheduled for April 2nd at 10am at the Deep Lake Trailhead. For more information, email John Haffenden at Johnhaff@comcast.net. John is also organizing volunteers again for the 2006 Yankee Springs Time Trial CPS event to be held on April 23rd. Volunteer help will be needed on Saturday April 22 to help set up and mark the course and on Sunday during the race event. Email John for this as well if you would like to help the event run smoothly. Tentative plans call for a trail school to be held in conjunction with the trail day. For more information email Dennis Murphy at dennis.b.murphy@hotmail.com.

Chapter officers are:

President: Dennis Murphy (616-318-2390)

Dennis.b.murphy@hotmail.com),

Vice-President: Nate Phelps (Spinful@Gmail.com)

Secretary: Seth Winner (Seth@studioZtextiles.com),

Treasurer: Sue Swiger (swampsoozyn@hotmail.com),

CPS representative: open,

State Board representative: Dennis Murphy

Chapter Trail coordinators:

Yankee Springs - John Haffenden

CGSA - Dennis Murphy

Luton Park - Scott Peterson,

Bass River - Jeff Foos

Edwards Creek - Randy Merren

Hungerford Trails - TC position available

Trail updates:

Owassippe is still open as of this writing. During a public zoning review held at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp on January 14th, opponents of the developer presented public comment and attorneys for the developer presented their plan. More hearings or likely court action will be enacted before biking is banned. Expect to be able to ride for most of the summer (except for the window during scout camp use).

CGSA is open to riding- but care should be given during wet season to avoid increasing any erosion. Bass River is open and in decent riding condition.

Chapter area activities as of March 1st:

April 2 trail maintenance at Yankee Springs

April 2 tentative trail school 101

April 22 Yankee Springs race venue set-up

April 23 Yankee Springs Time Trial

April 30 Cannonsburg - XC race by Fun Promotions

June 17 Second Annual Lumberjack 100

Seth Winner (chapter secretary) has implemented a new and informative chapter newsletter. He has also updated the chapter's web pages which can be accessed from the MMBA's main page and utilizing the chapter dropdown arrow to Western.

If you see work you think needs to be done at any trail location, please contact us at western@mmba.org and we can arrange for a team to take on the task. Volunteers always appreciated. - Dennis Murphy

Winter Work!



Thank these dedicated volunteers for clearing the Bass River trails on the day after the February 20th snowstorm. Trail maintenance can be a fourseason job. From left to right: Phil Pyrett (Creakindale), Doug Scranton (Slowpoke), and Mike Dilly (Mntn-biker)

Taking our issues to Washington DC

With IMBA's help, the MMBA was able to send me to Washington D.C. last week as part of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Hike the Hill event. I was joined by other members of the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, including county park presidents, directors, and others. This was the MMBA's third trip to DC and our most successful in large part due to the scheduling. Joan Lenhard from the City of Lansing Parks Department scheduled nine congressional offices visits for me and I dropped by a couple other offices just to hand out materials. The others in our Michigan group covered the remaining offices.

All of the meetings went very well. We covered the primary NRPA/MRPA issues: keeping the Land, Water, and Conservation Fund's stateside assistance, which the President proposed be eliminated; and opposing a cut to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program. I also spent time covering MMBA/IMBA federal trail and planning issues.

In addition, I asked Senator Levin's office to investigate a

rails-with-trails proposal for a Royal Oak-to-Pontiac trail. That was a suggestion made some time ago when meeting with Heath Merriweather, the former Free Press publisher and Rails-to-Trails board member. The line is owned by Canadian National and has not been interested in discussing any proposals to date. We thought Levin's office might have the muscle to bring people to the table.

Like many trips of this kind, the networking was huge and not just with our Michigan group. I spent a good deal of time questioning the director of Colorado State Parks on their financing issues. I also spoke with the National Park Service's RTCA program director, and mentioned how we plan to use that program's assistance with our Rouge Park trails.


Jenn Dice, IMBA's National Policy director and Scott Scudamore from M.O.R.E. were there as well, so we had a chance to strategize on a number of different mountain biking and organizational issues.

There's a small scattering of photos on-line at:
<http://www.mmba.org/gallery/DC2006>

Emerald Ash Borer Update

I was reading the copy of the Bent Rim Bugle (Issue #74, Winter 06) that I picked up at the Forest Management Advisory Committee Meeting. I was thrilled to read the information that you had on the emerald ash borer (EAB) on p. 4 but I wanted to pass along some current information about the quarantine. Towards the end of the paragraph, it states that there are 6 counties quarantined due to EAB. There are now 21 counties in southeast Michigan quarantined: Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Genesee, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair, Shiawassee, Washtenaw and Wayne. The quarantine prohibits the movement of any part of an ash tree, ash wood products and ALL hardwood firewood outside this 21 county quarantined area. In addition, no hardwood firewood, no matter the origin in Michigan, is allowed to leave the Lower Peninsula. For more information on the Emerald Ash Borer and the quarantine you can visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

Thanks for helping to spread the word about EAB!
Kerry Gray—Emerald Ash Borer Restoration Coordinator MDNR,
Forest Mineral & Fire Management


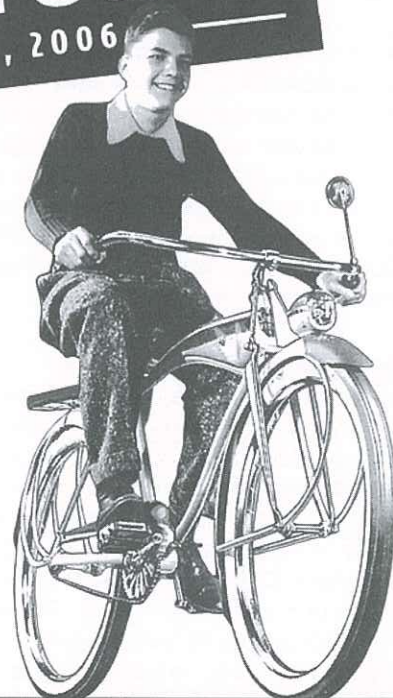


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Top, Chris Eatough, Trek Bicycles, right, Jef Mallett, Frazz, above, CPS trophies.

Top, shopping at the swap meet, above Dennis Murphy, Western Chapter President with the new Frazz jersey.

Images from the Expo!

Photos by Bryan Mitchell | www.mountainbikephotographer.com

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Granger, IN
(574)679-4057
www.sportcrafters.com

Trail Atlas of Michigan
Hansen Publishing Company
Okemos, MI
(517) 349-4683
www.michiweb.com/trailatlas

ZZ Underwater World
Lansing, MI
(517) 485-3894
www.zzunderwaterworld.com

Manufacturers

Armadillo (Printwear) Reflex Sports
Berkley, MI (248) 547-0490
www.goarmadillo.com

Eye on the Earth
Belmont, MI
(616) 784-9327

Race Promoters

Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival
Cable, WI
(715) 798-3594
www.cheqfattire.com

Iceman Promotions, Inc.
Traverse City, MI - (231) 922-5926
www.iceman.com

Kisscross
Comstock Park, MI
(616)863-3291

Oakland County Parks & Rec
(248) 858-0916
www.co.oakland.mi.us

Tailwind Enterprises
Davisburg, MI - (248) 634-6178
www.tailwind.net

Zoo-De-Mackinac "Bike Bash"
Royal Oak, MI
(248) 549-1072
www.zoo-de-mack.com

Visitor Bureaus

Grayling Area Visitors Bureau
(800) 937-8837
www.grayling-mi.com

Petoskey-Harbor Springs-Boyne
Convention & Visitor's Bureau
(800) 845-2828
www.boynecountry.com



Contribute!

Want to get published in the BRB? The BRB welcomes submissions and artwork from MMBA members. This is your newsletters so send stuff! Email your story ideas, stories and photos to brb@mmba.org. If you can't email items or have questions call Bryan Mitchell at 248-349-1937. Keep the stories short and about Michigan or Michigan Riders. Email copy in the body of the email with no formatting or better yet in a Microsoft Word document, again with no formatting.

Photo guidelines: Make sure photos are in focus, the subject is fairly close and they are interesting. Also try to make sure faces are lit well. Email photos to bryan@bryanmitchell.com. Keep the files large. Try to send sizes of at least 5X7 at a resolution of 300ppi. (2000X2000 pixels and a file size of at least 2 mb) Email photos as JPEG attachments and don't imbed them in documents like Microsoft Word. (make sure they have .jpg at the end of the file name).

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